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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Sam Cotten, Commissioner*  
*Scott Kelley, Director*



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#### SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today the results from the 2016 Sitka Sound sac roe herring fishery and spawn observations. This season the target harvest level was set at 14,741. The final harvest was 9,758 tons with overall mature roe recovery of 10.7% based on fish ticket information. The harvest and roe recovery by date was as follows:

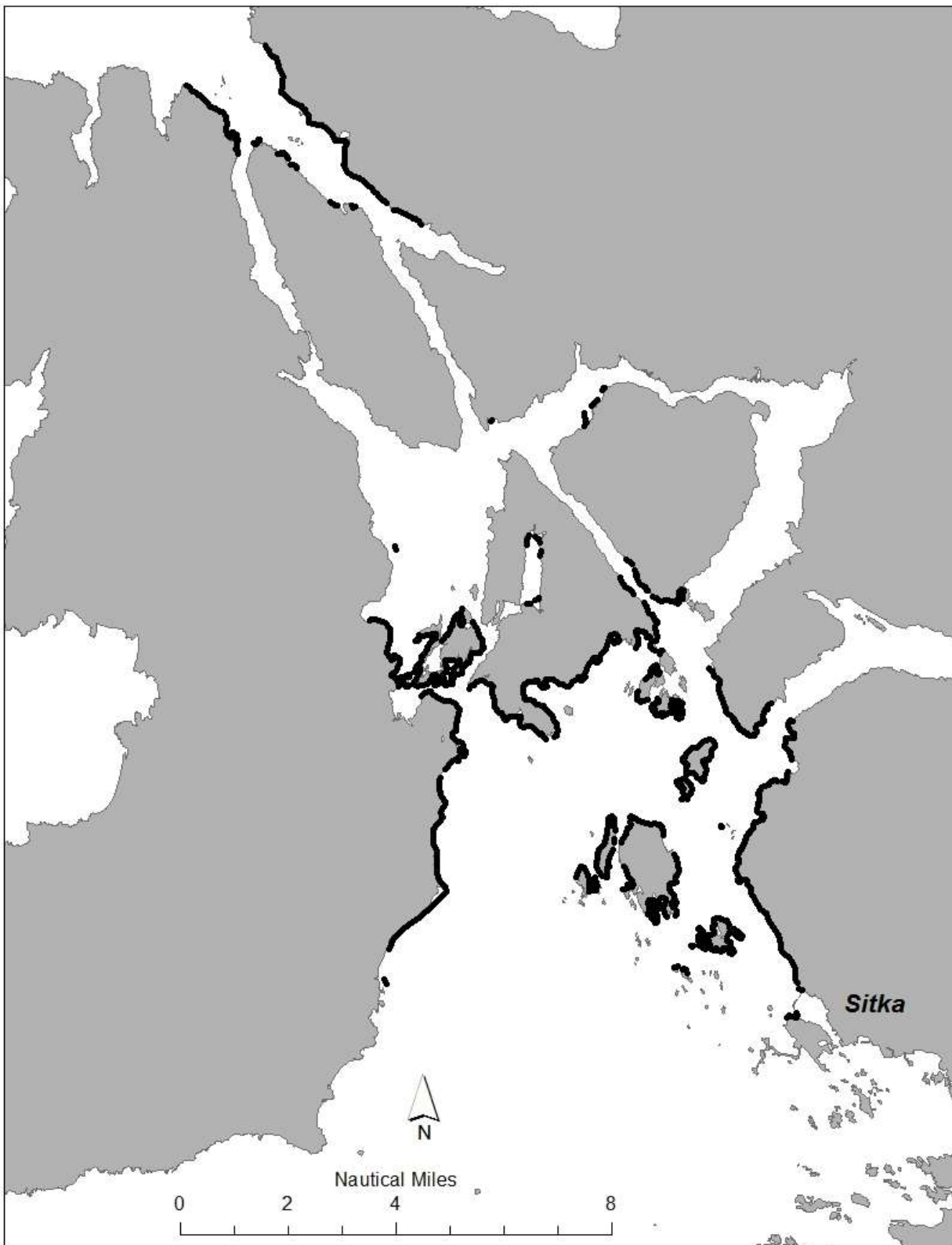
Date	Harvest (tons)	Mature Roe %
March 17	3,140	10.1%
March 19	4,550	11.8%
March 23	2,068	9.4%
Total	9,758	10.7%

There were two spawning events in the Sitka Sound area this season. The first spawn occurred from March 18 until March 28. The total shoreline mapped with spawn during this initial event was 47.8 nautical miles (nm). The spawn started in the Hayward Strait area and expanded to other areas of northern Sitka Sound including the Magoun Islands, Krestof Sound, DeGroat Bay, Promisla and Eastern Bays, Siginaka Islands, Lisianski Peninsula, Gavanski Islands, Middle and Crow Islands, Kasiana Island, and the Halibut Point Road shoreline. The second spawning event began April 1 and ended April 8 and included 19.4 nm of shoreline. The second spawning event occurred in the northeast area of Sitka Sound and in Salisbury Sound. In Sitka Sound, spawn occurred on east Middle Island, the shoreline from Halibut Point to Starrigavan Bay, Siginaka Islands, Lisianski Peninsula, and southern Olga Strait. With 4.0 nm of overlapping spawn between the first and second spawning events, the total shoreline receiving spawn in 2016 was 63.2 nm (see attached map). This compares to a long term average spawn of 61.0 nm and a recent ten-year average of 65.0 nm.

The final results of assessment surveys, biological sampling, and population modeling will be available in the fall.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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Map of shoreline in the Sitka Sound area with heavy black line representing shoreline recorded with herring spawn in 2016. A Total of 63.2 nautical miles of shoreline was recorded with spawn.